



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Critical Habitat for 32 Plant Species from Lanai

Under the Endangered Species Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is charged with designating critical habitat for threatened and endangered species whenever it is determined to be prudent and determinable. A proposed rule to designate critical habitat for listed species on the island of Lanai was published in the *Federal Register* in December 2000.

Comments received during the public review period and new information provided to the Fish and Wildlife Service led to extensive changes in the proposal. Rather than publishing a final rule, we are publishing a revised proposed rule to allow interested parties the opportunity to again submit comments.

What changes were made from the original proposed rule?

Our December 2000 proposal has been significantly revised in response to new biological information and public comments. These changes are summarized below; more detailed information can be found in the revised proposed rule.

Critical habitat is determined to be prudent for an additional species:

Critical habitat for *Tetramolopium lepidotum* ssp. *lepidotum* was determined to be “not prudent” when it was listed as an endangered species in 1991. In this proposal, we determine that designation of critical habitat is prudent and would benefit the species. Although the species no longer exists on Lanai, it is currently found on Oahu.



Hibiscus brackenridgei or mao hau hele

Photo by Darraal Herbst

Critical habitat is proposed for additional species:

The December 2000 proposal addressed designation of critical habitat for 18 plant species on Lanai. Critical habitat is proposed at this time for an additional 14 plant species that once occurred on Lanai and are reported from one or more other islands. The revised Lanai critical habitat proposal includes unoccupied areas on the island that are essential to their conservation.

A new method for identifying critical habitat was used:

In the December 2000 proposal, most of the areas proposed as critical habitat were currently occupied by one or more of the listed plant

species. At that time, we believed we did not have sufficient information about the plants' historical range or their needs for survival and recovery to include unoccupied areas. Several commenters on that proposal not only provided more detailed information, but also reminded us that existing occupied habitat may not be sufficient to allow for the recovery of these plants.

In response to these comments, the revised proposal designates habitat representative of the known geographic and elevational range of each species, the proposed critical habitat units allow for expansion of existing wild populations and reestablishment of wild populations within historic ranges, and boundaries



Brighamia rockii or pua ala

Photo by Greg Koob/USFWS

were delineated so that overlapping occupied or potentially suitable unoccupied habitat units were combined within multi-species units.

We also adjusted and refined previously identified critical habitat units to more accurately follow natural topographic features and to avoid nonessential landscape features (agricultural crops, urban or rural development) that do not support these listed species.

How can the public comment on this revised proposed rule?

We are proposing critical habitat for 32 plant species (see attached list). Critical habitat is not proposed for 4 species (*Mariscus faurei*, *Silene lanceolata*, *Tetramolopium lepidotum* ssp. *lepidotum*, and *Zanthoxylum hawaiiense*) once found on Lanai because they no longer occur on the island, and we are unable to determine habitat that is essential to their conservation on Lanai. These 4 species do occur on other Hawaiian islands and will be included in other proposed designations of critical habitat.

Critical habitat is not prudent and therefore not proposed for

Phyllostegia glabra var. *lanaiensis* because the plant has not been seen in the wild since 1914, and no viable genetic material is known to exist.

Eight critical habitat units totaling approximately 19,405 acres are being proposed on Lanai. A map depicting these areas and acreage figures by unit is attached to this fact sheet.

How can the public comment on this revised proposed rule?

Written comments may be submitted by mail to the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Islands Office, 300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 3-122, Box 50088, Honolulu, HI 96850; or by delivering them to the same address.

Due to our lack of internet access, comments will not be accepted by electronic mail at this time.

Why is the Service proposing critical habitat throughout Hawaii?

In 1998, the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii directed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to review the prudency determinations for 245 listed plant species in Hawaii, including 34 of the 37 species on the island of Lanai. We also were ordered to publish proposed critical habitat designations or nondesignations for at least 100 species by November 30, 2000, and for the remaining 145 species by April 30, 2002.

As a result of a subsequent court order, we will also include proposed critical habitat designations or nondesignations for 10 more recently listed Maui Nui plant species, including 3 species from Lanai. To comply with these orders, we plan to publish 7 notices of determinations of whether critical habitat is prudent, along with proposed rules as

appropriate, in the following groupings: Kauai and Niihau, Maui and Kahoolawe, Lanai, Molokai, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, Hawaii, and Oahu.

Four of these proposals have been published in the *Federal Register* to date: the Kauai and Niihau proposed rule on November 7, 2000; the Maui and Kahoolawe proposed rule on December 18, 2000; the Lanai proposed rule on December 27, 2000; and the Molokai proposed rule on December 29, 2000.

All of these proposed rules are being revised and will be republished as proposed rules. The Kauai and Niihau revised proposed rule was published in the *Federal Register* on January 28, 2002. This Lanai proposed rule is the second of the four revised proposals. The remaining three packages for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, Hawaii, and Oahu will be published by April 30, 2002.

What is critical habitat?

Critical habitat is the term used in the Endangered Species Act to define those areas of habitat that are known to be essential for an endangered or threatened species to recover and that require special management or protection. The ultimate goal of the Endangered Species Act is to restore healthy populations of listed species within their native habitats so that they can be removed from the list of threatened and endangered species.

How does the designation of critical habitat increase protection for threatened and endangered species?

If critical habitat is designated for a species, all Federal agencies must consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that any action

they authorize, fund, or carry out is not likely to result in the destruction or adverse modification of the critical habitat. In addition, designation of critical habitat focuses attention on those areas that are important to species recovery.

How does critical habitat affect private landowners and State lands?

Critical habitat designation does not affect activities on State or private lands unless some sort of Federal permit, license, or funding is involved. Activities such as farming, grazing, logging, hunting, and other recreational uses generally are not affected by critical habitat designation, even if the landowner's property is within the geographical boundaries of critical habitat.

The designation has no impact on individual, city, county, or State actions if there is no Federal involvement, nor does it signal any intent of the Federal government to acquire or control the land.

How does critical habitat affect Federal agencies?

Federal agencies are required to ensure that any activity they fund, carry out, or authorize is not likely to jeopardize the survival of a listed species or destroy or adversely modify its critical habitat. By consulting with the Fish and Wildlife Service, an agency can usually minimize or avoid any potential conflicts with listed species and their critical habitat, and the proposed project may be undertaken. Most projects proceed unaffected.

How do you determine what areas to designate as critical habitat?

We consider the species' current range (*i.e.*, areas in which the

species currently exists) and historic range (*i.e.*, areas that the species formerly occupied within recent memory). Then, we identify features of the habitat that are needed for the species to live and reproduce.

Examples of features of the habitat or requirements that are generally considered are:

- space for individual and population growth for normal behavior;
- food, water, air, light, minerals, or other nutritional or physiological requirements;
- cover or shelter;
- sites for breeding, reproduction, or rearing of offspring, germination, or seed dispersal; and
- areas that are protected from disturbance or are representative of the historic geographical and ecological distributions of a species.

In this critical habitat proposal, we specifically considered the following habitat features: type of plant community, associated native plant species, locale (*e.g.*, steep rocky cliffs, talus slopes, streambanks), and elevation.

Are potential economic impacts considered?

Yes. Although decisions to place species on the threatened or endangered list must be based solely on biological grounds, potential economic and social effects of critical habitat designations are analyzed and considered before the designations are completed.

An area may be excluded from proposed critical habitat if the Secretary of the Interior finds that the benefits of an exclusion outweigh the conservation benefits of including the area. However, excluding an area from a critical habitat designation is allowed only if doing so will not lead to the extinction of the species.

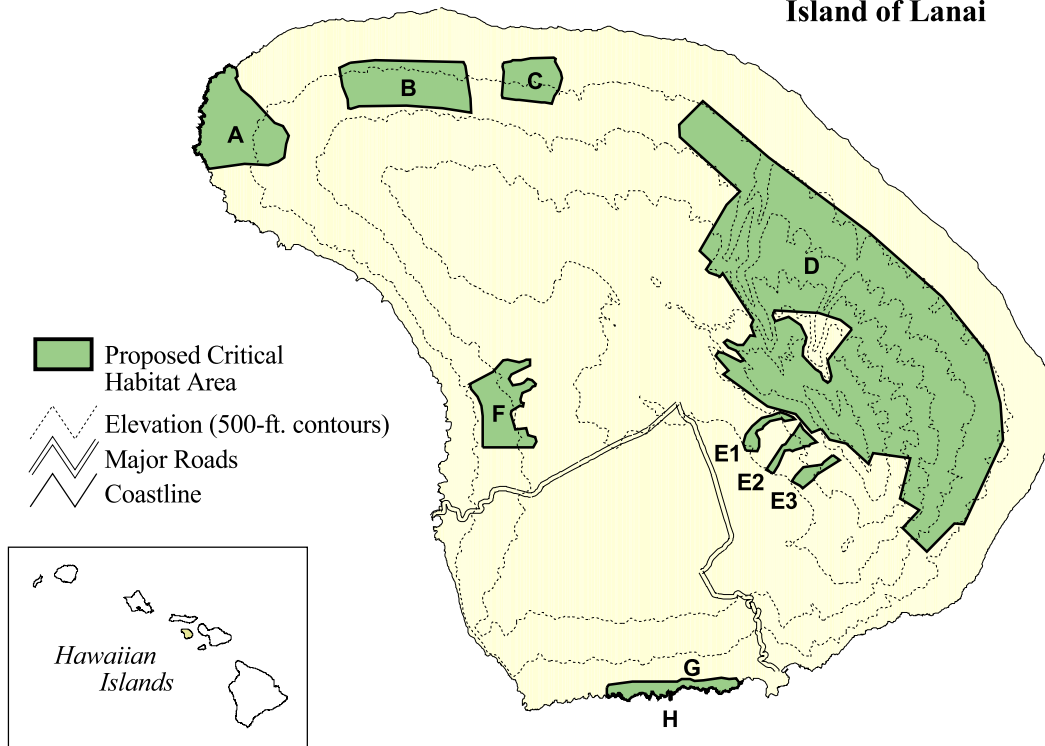
A draft economic analysis based on this proposal is under development and will be made available for public review. We do not anticipate the designation of critical habitat on Lanai will have any significant economic impacts.



Sesbania tomentosa or ohai

General Locations of Units for 32 Species of Plants

Island of Lanai



Proposed Critical Habitat Units on Lanai

Unit	State/Local Lands	Private Lands	Federal Lands	Total
Lanai A		1,418 acres		1,418 acres
Lanai B		1,363 acres		1,363 acres
Lanai C		549 acres		549 acres
Lanai D		14,482 acres		14,482 acres
Lanai E		400 acres		400 acres
Lanai F		818 acres		818 acres
Lanai G		373 acres		373 acres
Lanai H		2 acres		2 acres
Grand Totals	0 acres	19,405 acres	0 acres	19,405 acres

**Summary of Island Distribution of 32 Species from Lanai
for Which Critical Habitat is Proposed**

Species	Island Distribution						
	Kauai	Oahu	Molokai	Lanai	Maui	Hawaii	NW Isles, Kahoolawe, Niihau
<i>Abutilon eremitopetalum</i> (NCN)				C			
<i>Adenophorus periens</i> (pendant kihi fern)	C	H	C	R	R	C	
<i>Bidens micrantha</i> ssp. <i>kalealaha</i> (kookoolau)				H	C		
<i>Bonamia menziesii</i> (NCN)	C	C	H	C	C	C	
<i>Brighamia rockii</i> (pua ala)			C	H	H		
<i>Cenchrus agrimonioides</i> (kamanomano)		C		H	C	R	NW Isles (H)
<i>Centaurium sebaeoides</i> (awiwi)	C	C	C	C	C		
<i>Clermontia oblongifolia</i> ssp. <i>mauiensis</i> (oha wai)				C	C		
<i>Ctenitis squamigera</i> (pauoa)	H	C	C	C	C	H	
<i>Cyanea grimesiana</i> ssp. <i>grimesiana</i> (haha)		C	C	C	C		
<i>Cyanea lobata</i> (haha)				H	C		
<i>Cyanea macrostegia</i> ssp. <i>gibsonii</i> (NCN)				C			
<i>Cyperus trachysanthos</i> (puukaa)	C	C	H	H			Ni (C)
<i>Cyrtandra munroi</i> (haiwale)				C	C		
<i>Diellia erecta</i> (NCN)	C	C	C	H	C	C	
<i>Diplazium molokaiense</i> (asplenium-leaved asplenium)	H	H	H	H	C		
<i>Gahnia lanaiensis</i> (NCN)				C			
<i>Hedyotis mannii</i> (pilo)			C	C	C		
<i>Hedyotis schlechtendahlia</i> var. <i>remyi</i> (kopa)				C			
<i>Hesperomannia arborescens</i> (NCN)		C	C	H	C		
<i>Hibiscus brackenridgei</i> (mao hau hele)	H	C	H	C	C	C	Ka (R)
<i>Isodendron pyrifolium</i> (wahine noho kula)		H	H	H	H	C	Ni (H)
<i>Labordia tinifolia</i> var. <i>lanaiensis</i> (kamakahala)				C			
<i>Melicope munroi</i> (alani)			H	C			
<i>Neraudia sericea</i> (NCN)			C	H	C		Ka (H)
<i>Portulaca sclerocarpa</i> (poe)				C		C	
<i>Sesbania tomentosa</i> (ohai)	C	C	C	H	C	C	Ni (H), Ka (C), NW Isles (C)
<i>Solanum incompletum</i> (popolo ku mai)	H		H	H	H	C	
<i>Spermolepis hawaiiensis</i> (NCN)	C	C	C	C	C	C	
<i>Tetramolopium remyi</i> (NCN)				C	H		
<i>Vigna o-wahuensis</i> (NCN)		H	C	C	C	C	Ni (H), Ka (C)
<i>Viola lanaiensis</i> (NCN)				C			

KEY

C (Current): population last observed within the past 30 years
H (Historical): population not seen for more than 30 years
R (Reported): reported from undocumented observations
NCN: No Common Name